

Dustin Monroe
Chairman and Committee Members,

I come before you to oppose HB 396; Because of the implications it will have on tribal governments being able to transport their Buffalo/Wild Bison in Montana and how it undermines the current Interagency Bison Management Plan, which took 10 years complete.

There is a management plan that was drafted by The National Park Service, the U.S. Forest Service, USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, the Montana Department of Livestock, and FWP with more than 67,000 public comments were received and considered.

Tribes are government entities that protected by the highest law in the Land the United States Constitution. Treaty rights such as the LameBull Treaty that, governs hunting rights. Article 4 of the Lame Bull treaty would be violated because there would be no Buffalo to hunt.

Counties do not have justification over Tribal Governments because Tribal Governments are sovereign nations. Tribes enter into agreements with the State and are not forced into agreements.

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3 (ii) transferred to **qualified tribal entities** that participate in the disease control program provided for in this

4 subsection (1)(a). Acquisition of wild buffalo or wild bison by a **qualified tribal entity** must be done in a manner

5 that does not jeopardize compliance with a state-administered or federally administered livestock disease control

6 program. The department may adopt rules consistent with this section governing tribal participation in the program

7 or enter into cooperative agreements with tribal organizations for the purposes of carrying out the disease control

8 program.

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15 (5) Except as provided in subsection (1)(a)(ii), after a wild buffalo or wild bison has been certified as
16 brucellosis-free by the state veterinarian, the department may authorize its transplantation or relocation
into any

17 **Montana county pursuant to this section only if the department first receives the approval of the
board of county**

18 **commissioners of the affected county or counties pursuant to [section 1]."**

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17 (4) The department may not:

18 (a) release, transplant, relocate, or allow wild buffalo or bison on any private or public land in Montana
19 that has not been authorized for that use by the private or public owner; or

20 (b) pursuant to [section 1], release, transplant, or relocate any wild buffalo or bison into any Montana
21 county without first receiving the approval of the board of county commissioners of the affected county
22 or Counties.